



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

#### REPRESENTATIVE BRENDA L. KUPCHICK

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
HOME: (203) 336-1724  
Brenda.Kupchick@cga.ct.gov

#### RANKING MEMBER

HOUSING COMMITTEE

#### MEMBER

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of HB 6013: AN ACT REQUIRING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES TO CREDIT CUSTOMERS FOR PROLONGED SERVICE OUTAGES

Energy & Technology Committee  
February 24, 2015

Dear Chairs, Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, Vice Chairs, Senator Larsen, Representative Demicco, Ranking Members, Senator Formica, Representative Ackert and honorable members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I would like to provide testimony on HB 6013 AN ACT REQUIRING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES TO CREDIT CUSTOMERS FOR PROLONGED SERVICE OUTAGES. This bill seeks to reimburse consumers for lost service during times of extended power outages.

I appreciate the committee raising this bill. I first introduced the bill after an October storm that was followed by Storm Sandy which left many residents across the state, including myself, without power for a week or longer.

The delay in restoration of power to consumers most likely stems from a miscalculation in the strength of the storms; it was reported that delays were caused by the rounding-up and calling-in of numerous extra crews from out of state. Regardless, residents are not just inconvenienced when their power is out. It is costly and can be overwhelming to families who will likely lose the contents of their refrigerators / freezers and can additionally suffer a loss of income due to a decrease in work hours depending on their occupation.

The purchase and lengthy operating cost of a generator also add to the general burden of life without power. Prolonged power outages are a serious safety concern for residents with health issues that require electricity. This is especially true during the colder months. Residents are left with the added expense of choosing to purchase a generator to avoid pipes freezing and far too many people are using unsafe methods to stay warm; some have even lost their lives.

While I understand the monumental responsibility of the power companies and appreciate their efforts to keep the lights on, I'm hopeful a level of accountability will keep Connecticut residents safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda L. Kupchick".

Brenda Kupchick